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safety requirements for powder actuated fastening systems

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American National Standard
Safety Requirements for Powder Actuated Fastening Systems

Secretariat

National Safety Council
American Road Builders' Association

Approved June 23, 1972
American National Standards Institute, Inc

American National Standard

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Foreword

(This Foreword is not a part of American National Standard Safety Requirements for Powder-Actuated Fastening Systems, A10.3-1972.)

This standard is one of a series of American National Standards on Safety Requirements for Construction. Others in the series, approved by ANSI to date, cover workmen's and material hoists; demolition; transportation, storage, handling, and use of explosives; scaffolding; concrete construction and masonry; and space heating devices. Complete titles are given in a listing on the back cover.

The first edition of this standard was approved and published by ANSI in 1966 under the title American National Standard Safety Requirements for Explosive-Actuated Fastening Tools. A revision was issued in 1970. The current edition was approved by ANSI on June 23, 1972.

Suggestions for improvement gained in the use of this standard will be welcome. They should be sent to the American National Standards Institute, 1430 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10018.

At the time it approved this standard, American National Standards Committee A10, Safety in the Construction Industry, had the following personnel.

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American National Standard Safety Requirements for Powder Actuated Fastening Systems

1. Scope

This standard provides safety requirements for a powder actuated fastening tool or machine which propels a stud, pin, fastener, or other object for the purpose of affixing it by penetration to another object.

This standard does not apply to devices designed for attaching objects to soft construction materials, such as wood, plaster, tar, dry wallboard, and the like, or to stud welding equipment.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this standard is to provide reasonable safety for life, limb, and property, by establishing requirements for design, construction, operation, service, and storage of powder actuated fastening tools, fasteners, and power loads. Powder actuated fastening tools and accessory equipment approved or in proper use prior to adoption of the standard need not be modified to conform to its rules unless the regulating body having jurisdiction considers that sufficient hazard exists to warrant such action, or definite provision is made in the enacting law.

3. Exception

In cases of practical difficulty and unnecessary hardship, the regulating body having jurisdiction may make exceptions to the literal requirements of the standard, but only when it is clearly evident that equivalent protection is thereby assured.

4. References to American National Standards

The following American National Standards supplement this document or relate to it. When any of these standards is superseded by a revision approved by the American National Standards Institute, the revision shall apply.

American National Standard Safety Requirements for Floor and Wall Openings, Railings, and Toe Boards, A12.1-1967

American National Standard National Electrical Code, C1-1971 (NFPA No. 70-1971)

American National Standard for Men's Safety-Toe Footwear, Z41.1-1967

American National Standard Safety Color Code for Marking Physical Hazards, Z53.1-1971

American National Standard Practice for Occupational and Educational Eye and Face Protection, Z87.1-1968

American National Standard Practices for Respiratory Protection, Z88.2-1969

American National Standard Safety Requirements for Industrial Head Protection, Z89.1-1969

5. Definitions

5.1 Angle Control. A safety feature designed to prevent a tool from operating when tilted beyond a predetermined angle.

5.2 Approved. Meeting the requirements of this standard and acceptable to the regulating body having jurisdiction.

5.3 Cased Power Load. A power load with the propellant contained in a closed case.

5.4 Caseless Power Load. A power load with the propellant in solid form not requiring containment.

5.5 Chamber. To fit the chamber exactly without force.

5.6 Fasteners. Any pins (unthreaded heads) or studs (threaded heads) driven by powder actuated tools.

5.7 Fixture. A special shield which provides equivalent protection where the standard shield cannot be used.

5.8 Head. That portion of a fastener which extends above work surface after being properly driven.

5.9 Misfire. A condition in which the power load fails to ignite after the tool has been operated.

5.10 Powder Actuated Fastening System. A method comprising the use of a powder actuated tool, a power load, and a fastener.

5.11 Powder Actuated Tool, also known as Tool. A tool that utilizes the expanding gases from a power load to drive a fastener.

5.12 Power Load. The energy source used in powder actuated tools.

5.13 Shield. A device, attached to the muzzle end of a tool, which is designed to confine flying particles.

5.14 Spalled Area. An area which is not substantially uniform, having been damaged by a blow or a previously unsuccessful fastening.

5.15 Test Velocity. A series of deliberately free-flighted fasteners measured 6-1/2 feet from the muzzle end of the tool using accepted ballistic test methods.

5.16 Tools. Tools can be divided into two types: direct acting and indirect acting; and three classes: low velocity, medium velocity, and high velocity.

5.16.1 Direct-Acting Tool. A tool in which the expanding gas of the power load acts directly on the fastener to be driven.

5.16.2 Indirect-Acting Tool. A tool in which the expanding gas of the power load acts on a captive piston which in turn drives the fastener.

5.16.3 Low-Velocity Tool. A tool which when tested with a series of ten tests in deliberate free flight, utilizing the lightest fastener and the strongest commercially available power load which will properly chamber in the tool, will produce an average velocity from the series not in excess of 300 feet per second, with no single test having a velocity of over 325 feet per second.[1]

5.16.4 Medium-Velocity Tool. A tool which when tested with a series of ten tests in deliberate free flight, utilizing the lightest fastener and the strongest commercially available power load which will properly chamber in the tool, will produce an average velocity from the series in excess of 300 feet per second, but not in excess of 500 feet per second, with no single test having a velocity of over 525 feet per second.[1]

5.16.5 High-Velocity Tool. A tool which when tested with a series of ten tests in deliberate free flight, utilizing the lightest fastener and the strongest commercially available power load which will properly chamber in the tool, will produce an average velocity from the series in excess of 500 feet per second.[1]

6. Requirements

6.1 General

6.1.1 The tool shall be designed to prevent inadvertent actuation during the process of proper loading and prior to intentional actuation.

6.1.2 The tool shall be designed to prevent actuation when dropped in any attitude from a height of 10 feet onto a smooth, hard surface such as concrete or steel if such actuation can propel a fastener or any part thereof in free flight.

6.1.3 Actuation of the tool shall be dependent upon at least two separate and distinct operations by the operator, with at least one operation being separate from the operation of holding the tool against the work surface.

6.1.4 The tool shall be designed not to be operable other than against a work surface with a force on the work surface equal to 5 pounds greater than the weight of the tool, or a minimum impact of 3 foot-pounds.

6.1.5 All tools shall be designed so that protective shields or fixtures, designed, built, and supplied by the manufacturer of the tool, can be used. (See 6.2.2, 6.3.2, 6.4.2, and 9.8.)

6.1.6 The tool shall be designed so that positive means of varying the power levels are available, or can be made available, in order to make it possible for the operator to select a power level adequate to perform the desired work, without excessive force.

6.1.7 The tool shall be designed so that all principal functional parts can be checked for foreign matter that may affect operation.

6.1.8 The tool shall be designed so that all parts will be of adequate strength to resist maximum stresses imposed upon actuation when using the tool in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, using any commercially available power load which will properly chamber in the tool.

6.1.9 Each tool shall bear a legible permanent model designation which shall serve as a means of identification for checking approved tools. Each tool shall also bear a legible permanent manufacturer's unique serial number.

6.1.10 An approved lockable container shall be provided for each tool. The words "POWDER ACTUATED TOOL" shall appear in plain sight on the outside of the container. The following notice shall be attached on the inside cover of the container: "WARNING:

---

[1] The test velocities shall be measured 6-1/2 feet from the muzzle end of the tool using accepted ballistic test methods.

POWDER ACTUATED TOOL. TO BE USED ONLY BY A QUALIFIED OPERATOR AND TO BE KEPT UNDER LOCK AND KEY WHEN NOT IN USE."

6.1.11 Each tool shall be supplied with the following:

(1) Operator's instruction and service manual.
(2) Power load chart.
(3) Tool inspection record.
(4) Service tools and accessories.

6.2 Design Requirements – Low-Velocity Class

6.2.1 Low-velocity tools, indirect-acting (piston) type, submitted for approval, shall meet the requirements as set forth in 5.15, 5.16.2, 5.16.3, and 6.1.

6.2.2 A shield shall be supplied with each tool.

6.3 Design Requirements – Medium-Velocity Class

6.3.1 Medium-velocity tools, indirect-acting (piston) type, submitted for approval, shall meet the requirements as set forth in 5.15, 5.16.2, 5.16.4, and 6.1.

6.3.2 The tool shall have a shield at least 2-1/2 inches in diameter mounted perpendicular to, and concentric with, the muzzle end, when it is indexed to the center position. A special shield or fixture may be used when it provides equivalent protection.

6.3.3 The tool shall be designed so that it cannot be actuated unless it is equipped with a shield or fixture.

6.3.4 The tool shall be designed with angle control so that it will not actuate when equipped with the standard shield indexed to the center position if the bearing surface of the shield is tilted more than 12 degrees from a flat surface.

Table 1
Power Load Identification

Power Level	Color Identification		Nominal Velocity (± 45 ft/s)
	Case Color	Load Color	
1	Brass	Gray	300
2	Brass	Brown	390
3	Brass	Green	480
4	Brass	Yellow	570
5	Brass	Red	660
6	Brass	Purple	750
7	Nickel	Gray	840
8	Nickel	Brown	930
9	Nickel	Green	1020
10	Nickel	Yellow	1110
11	Nickel	Red	1200
12	Nickel	Purple	1290

NOTE: The nominal velocity applies to a 3/8-inch diameter 350-grain ballistic slug fired in a test device and has no reference to actual fastener velocity developed in any specific tool.

6.4 Design Requirements – High-Velocity Class

6.4.1 High-velocity tools, direct-acting or indirect-acting type, submitted for approval, shall meet the requirements as set forth in 5.15, 5.16.5, and 6.1.

6.4.2 The tool shall have a shield at least 3-1/2 inches in diameter mounted perpendicular to, and concentric with, the muzzle end, when it is indexed to the center position. A special shield or fixture may be used when it provides equivalent protection.

6.4.3 The tool shall be designed so that it cannot be actuated unless it is equipped with a shield or fixture.

6.4.4 The tool shall be designed with angle control so that it will not actuate when equipped with the standard shield indexed to the center position if the bearing surface of the shield is tilted more than 8 degrees from a flat surface.

7. Power Loads

7.1 Identification of Cased Power Loads. Cased power loads shall be coded to identify power load levels by case color and power load color as specified in Table 1.

7.2 Identification of Caseless Power Loads. Caseless power loads shall be coded to identify power load levels by power load color as specified in Table 1 and by configuration.

7.3 Power Load Use Limitation. No power load (cased or caseless) shall be used if it will properly chamber in any existing approved commercially available tool and will cause a fastener to have a test velocity in excess of the maximum test velocities specified for the said tool (see 5.2).

7.4 Identification of Power Load Packages. Power load packages shall provide a visual number-color indication of the power level of the power load as specified in Table 1.

7.5 Optional Power Load Variation. Where means other than power loads of varying power levels are to be used to control penetration, an approved method shall be employed.

8. Fasteners

Fasteners for use in powder actuated tools shall be designed and manufactured to function compatibly with these tools and, when used in masonry, concrete, or steel, to effect properly the application for which they are recommended.

9. Operation

9.1 Only approved tools shall be used.

9.2 Only qualified operators shall operate tools.

9.3 The lowest velocity class of tool that will properly set the fastener should be used.

9.4 Tools shall be operated in strict accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

9.5 Eye or face protection, or both, shall be worn by operators, assistants, and adjacent personnel when tool is in use.

9.6 Each day, prior to use, the operator shall inspect the tool to determine that it is in proper working condition in accordance with the testing methods recommended by the manufacturer of the tool.

9.7 Any tool found not to be in proper working condition shall be immediately removed from service, tagged "DEFECTIVE," and shall not be used until it has been properly repaired in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

9.8 The proper shield, fixture, adapter, or accessory, suited for the application, as recommended and supplied by the manufacturer, shall be used.

9.9 Only those types of fasteners and power loads recommended by the tool manufacturer shall be used.

9.10 Before fastening into any questionable material the operator shall determine its suitability by using a fastener as a center punch. If the fastener point does not easily penetrate, is not blunted, and does not fracture the material, initial test fastenings shall then be made in accordance with the tool manufacturer's recommendations. (See 10.3.)

9.11 No tool shall be loaded unless being prepared for immediate use. If the work is interrupted after loading, the tool shall be unloaded at once.

9.12 Tools shall not be loaded until just prior to the intended firing time. Neither loaded nor empty tools are to be pointed at any person, and hands should be kept clear of open barrel end.

9.13 The tool shall always be held perpendicular to the work surface when fastening into any material, except for specific applications recommended by the tool manufacturer.

9.14 In the event of a misfire the operator shall hold the tool firmly against the work surface for a period of 30 seconds and then follow the explicit instructions set forth in the manufacturer's instructions.

9.15 Power loads of different power levels and types ~~shall be kept in separate compartments or containers.~~

9.16 A sign, at least 8 X 10 inches, using boldface type no less than 1 inch in height, shall be posted in plain sight on all construction projects where tools are used. The sign shall bear wording similar to the following: "POWDER ACTUATED TOOL IN USE.

10. Limitations of Use

10.1 The tool shall not be used in an explosive or flammable atmosphere.

10.2 A tool shall never be left unattended in a place where it would be available to unauthorized persons.

10.3 Fasteners shall not be driven into very hard or brittle materials including, but not limited to, cast iron, glazed tile, hardened steel, glass block, natural rock, hollow tile, or most brick. (See 9.10.)

10.4 Fasteners shall not be driven into easily penetrated or thin materials or materials of questionable resistance unless backed by a material that will prevent the fastener from passing completely through the other side.

10.5 Fasteners shall not be driven closer than 1/2 inch from the edge of steel except for specific applications recommended by the tool manufacturer.

10.6 Fasteners shall not be driven closer than 3 inches from the unsupported edge of masonry materials except for specific applications recommended by the tool manufacturer.

10.7 Fasteners shall not be driven into concrete unless material thickness is at least three times the fastener shank penetration.

10.8 Fasteners shall not be driven into any spalled area.

10.9 Fasteners shall not be driven through existing holes unless a specific guide means as recommended and supplied by the tool manufacturer is used to assure positive alignment.

11. Maintenance and Storage

11.1 The tool shall be serviced and inspected for worn or damaged parts at regular intervals as recommended by the tool manufacturer. Prior to the tool being put back into use, all worn or damaged parts shall be replaced by a qualified person using only parts supplied by the tool manufacturer. A record of this inspection shall be noted and dated on the tool inspection record.

11.2 Instruction manuals, maintenance tools, and accessories, supplied with the tool, shall be stored in the tool container when not in use.

11.3 Powder actuated tools and power loads shall be locked in a container and stored in a safe place when not in use and shall be accessible only to authorized personnel.

12. Authorized Instructor

12.1 Only persons able to read and write the English language and trained and authorized by the tool manufacturer or by an authorized representative of the tool manufacturer shall be qualified to instruct and qualify operators for the manufacturer's powder-actuated tools.

12.2 All authorized instructors shall have read and be familiar with this standard, and shall be capable of the following:

(1) Disassembling, servicing, and reassembling the tool.
(2) Recognizing any worn or damaged parts or defective operation.
(3) Recognizing and clearly identifying the colors used to identify power load levels.
(4) Using the tool correctly within the limitations of its use.
(5) Training and testing of operators prior to issuing a Qualified Operator's Card.

12.3 All authorized instructors shall have in their possession a valid Authorized Instructor's Card issued and signed by an authorized representative of the manufacturer. The card shall be wallet size (approximately 2-1/2 X 3-1/2 inches), and the face of the card shall bear text similar to that shown in Fig. 1.

12.4 A list of all manufacturer-authorized instructors authorized to instruct and qualify operators shall be maintained by the tool manufacturer and be made available to the regulating body having jurisdiction upon request.

12.5 An instructor's card may be revoked by the authorizing agent or regulating body having jurisdiction if he is known to have issued a Qualified Operator's Card in violation of any regulation contained in this standard. When an instructor is no longer authorized to issue Qualified Operator's Cards, he shall surrender his card to the authorizing agent or regulating body having jurisdiction.

13. Qualified Operator

13.1 The operator shall be able to read the English language. He shall be trained by an authorized instructor to be familiar with the provisions of this standard and the instructions provided by the manufacturer for operation and maintenance, and to be capable of the following:

(1) Cleaning the tool correctly.
(2) Recognizing any worn or damaged parts or defective operation.

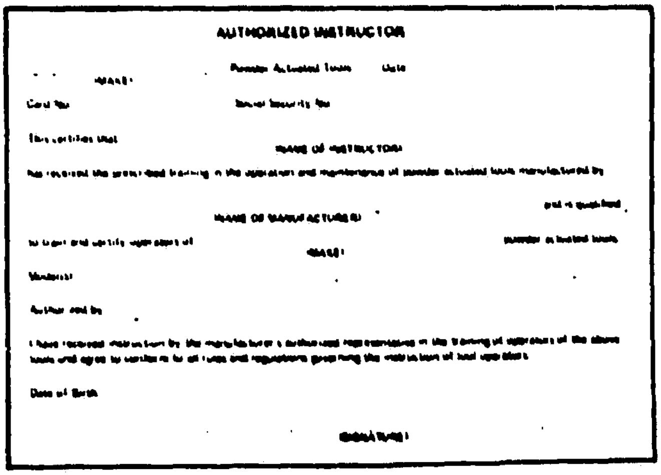
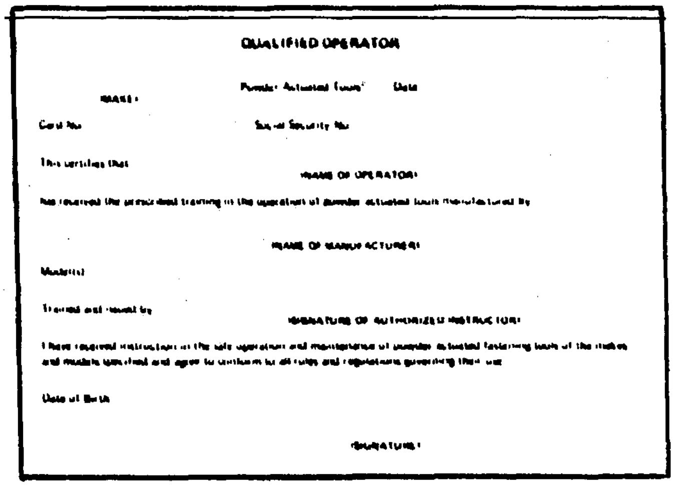


Fig. 1
Sample of Authorized Instructor's Card



QUALIFIED OPERATOR

Powder Actuated Tools Date

(NAME)

Card No Social Security No

This certifies that

(NAME OF OPERATOR)

(NAME OF MANUFACTURER)

Model(s)

Trained and issued by

(SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED INSTRUCTOR)

Date of Birth

(SIGNATURE)

Fig. 2
Sample of Qualified Operator's Card

(3) Recognizing the number-color code system used in this standard to identify power load levels. In the event the operator is unable to distinguish the colors used, he shall be given special instruction to enable him to avoid error.

(4) Using the tool correctly within the limitations of its use and demonstrating his competence by operating the tool in the presence of the instructor.

13.2 After training, the operator shall, to substantiate his competency, satisfactorily complete a written examination provided by the manufacturer of the tool.

13.2.1 The operator's written examination shall consist of questions to establish the operator's competence with respect to: 1) the requirements of this standard, 2) the powder actuated fastening system, and 3) the specific details of operation and maintenance of the tool(s) involved.

13.2.2 The examination shall provide a statement, attested to by the instructor, that the applicant can (or cannot) readily distinguish the colors used to identify power load levels (see Section 7).

13.3 Each applicant who meets the requirements as set forth in 13.1 and 13.2 shall receive a Qualified Operator's Card, issued and signed by the instructor and signed by the applicant, which shall be in his possession while using the tool.

13.4 The Qualified Operator's Card supplied by the manufacturer shall be wallet size (approximately 2-1/2 X 3-1/2 inches), and the face of the card shall bear text similar to that shown in Fig. 2.

13.5 There shall be printed on the card a notation reading: "Revocation of card – Failure to comply with any of the rules and regulations for safe operation of powder actuated fastening tools shall be cause for the immediate revocation of this card, and it must be surrendered upon demand of the proper authority."

American National Standards on Safety Requirements for Construction

A10.3-1972	Powder Actuated Fastening Systems, Safety Requirements for
A10.4-1963	*Workmen's Hoists, Safety Requirements for
A10.5-1969	*Material Hoists, Safety Requirements for
A10.6-1969	*Demolition, Safety Requirements for
A10.7-1970	*Transportation, Storage, Handling, and Use of Commercial Explosives and Blasting Agents in the Construction Industry, Safety Requirements for
A10.8-1969	*Scaffolding, Safety Requirements for
A10.9-1970	Concrete Construction and Masonry Work, Safety Requirements for
A10.10-1970	*Temporary and Portable Space Heating Devices and Equipment Used in the Construction Industry, Safety Requirements for
A10.11-1971	Safety Nets, Minimum Requirements for

*Partial revision of American National Standard Safety Code for Building Construction, A10.2-1944.

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